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**Programme planning**

# Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

## Part two: biennial programme plan

## Programme 8
## Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Contents

| | Page |
|---|---|
| Overall orientation | 2 |
| Subprogramme 1. Least developed countries | 4 |
| Subprogramme 2. Landlocked developing countries | 6 |
| Subprogramme 3. Small island developing States | 7 |
| Legislative mandates | 9 |

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## Overall orientation

8.1 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolutions: resolution 56/227, whereby the Assembly decided to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; resolution 65/280, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; resolution 69/137, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024; resolution 59/311, whereby the Assembly endorsed the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and resolution 69/15, whereby the Assembly endorsed the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (SAMOA Pathway). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1) supports the implementation of the above three programmes of action, all of which are integral to the new Agenda. Furthermore, the new Agenda contains a request that, in the context of the global follow-up and review processes of the Agenda, effective linkages be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries.

8.2 The mandate of the programme covers five main elements:

(a) Mobilization and coordination of international support and resources for the effective implementation of: (i) the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020; (ii) the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024; and (iii) the SAMOA Pathway;

(b) Coherent and coordinated monitoring and follow-up to the three programmes of action;

(c) Awareness-raising and advocacy with respect to the three groups of countries (least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States) and their respective programmes of action;

(d) Reporting on the implementation of the programmes of action as effective tools for reaching the international development goals in the groups of countries;

(e) Building effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the three programmes of action.

8.3 The programme will also contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements, such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. It will mobilize international support in favour

of its three groups of constituencies in the areas of capacity-building and increased technical and financial resources in promoting sustained growth and sustainable development. Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment are an important dimension in the implementation of the three programmes of action.

8.4 The overall programme of work of the Office of the High Representative is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, namely, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, subprogramme 2, Landlocked developing countries, and subprogramme 3, Small island developing States.

8.5 The Office of the High Representative will use a combination of the following approaches and strategies:

(a) Raising awareness and advocating that the concerns of the three groups of countries be placed high on the global development cooperation agenda, to maintain the focus on their special needs;

(b) Monitoring and follow-up to foster supportive policies in groups of countries in special situations and their development partners in accordance with their respective programmes of action and other internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework;

(c) Working with development partners, United Nations system organizations and other international and regional organizations, as well as parliaments and civil society, to ensure the mainstreaming of priorities identified in each of the three programmes of action at the national level, enhancing coherence between global policies and national strategies;

(d) Supporting capacity-building of the three groups of countries towards the effective implementation of the programmes of action at the national level;

(e) Building partnerships towards the implementation of the three programmes of action and promoting South-South cooperation in various areas for the benefit of the countries in the three groups;

(f) Reaching out to all stakeholders, including partnerships with parliaments, civil society, foundations, the media, academia and the private sector, to enhance support for the three groups of countries;

(g) Maximizing synergies among the three subprogrammes, given the commonalities of problems and challenges of the countries in the three groups, including their structural weaknesses, their vulnerability to external shocks, the smallness of their economies, their marginal position in the world economy, their limited access to technology and their geographical disadvantages.

## Subprogramme 1
## Least developed countries

**Objective of the Organization**: To enable the least developed countries to achieve the goals of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including graduation from the least developed country category, and other internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and enhance the mobilization of international support

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Increased global awareness and debate on development issues of relevance to the least developed countries, including gender dimensions | (a) (i) Increased reference in declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels to issues related to the priorities of the least developed countries as reflected in the Istanbul Programme of Action<br><br>(ii) Increased number of visits by unique end users to the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States |
| (b) Effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals related to the least developed countries, including increased international support for graduation | (b) (i) Increased number of the least developed countries meeting at least one of the criteria for graduation<br><br>(ii) Increased number of trading partners of the least developed countries implementing duty-free and quota-free market access |
| (c) Increased attention to the needs and challenges of the least developed countries in relevant United Nations conferences and processes related to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through their increased engagement and participation | (c) (i) Increased reference to least developed countries and/or to their priority areas in declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels emanating from intergovernmental deliberations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction<br><br>(ii) Increased number of entities of the United Nations system and other international and multilateral organizations that provide support to the least developed countries for their engagement in international processes related to the 2030 Agenda for |

Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Strategy**

8.6 The strategy for the Least Developed Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Raising awareness about the special needs of the least developed countries and advocating in favour of their special treatment, including the implementation of the provisions of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the outcome of the high-level midterm review by the least developed countries and development partners;

(b) Giving due priority to promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement in the least developed countries;

(c) Contributing to global follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, as well as advocating for stronger linkages and synergies between that follow-up and review process and that of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

(d) Mobilizing international support and resources in support of the development objectives of the least developed countries, including through South-South cooperation and support for investment promotion, as well as crisis mitigation and resilience-building;

(e) Supporting and advocating the functioning of the technology bank and the science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism;

(f) Strengthening United Nations system coordination and coherence, and building partnerships in support of the development objectives of the least developed countries, including participation in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

(g) Monitoring the achievement of the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels;

(h) Supporting capacity-building of the least developed countries, including all relevant stakeholders, especially United Nations system organizations, for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including graduation from the category, at the country level;

(i) Facilitating the effective participation of the least developed countries in the decision-making of various intergovernmental bodies, including through analytical work;

(j) Supporting the contribution of South-South cooperation, the private sector, civil society and academia in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

## Subprogramme 2
## Landlocked developing countries

**Objective of the Organization**: To enable landlocked developing countries to achieve the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action aimed at addressing their special needs, and the internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, through strengthened transit systems, productive capacities, diversification, industrialization, connection to value chains, and the enhanced mobilization of international support

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Increased global awareness and debate on development issues of relevance to the landlocked developing countries | (a) Increased reference to landlocked developing countries in declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels |
| (b) Effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action | (b) (i) Increased number of initiatives implemented by landlocked developing countries and transit countries that aim at improving trade facilitation and transport systems, diversifying production and export bases and integrating into regional and global value chains<br>(ii) Increased number of landlocked developing countries and United Nations organizations mainstreaming provisions of the Vienna Programme of Action into their national development strategies and work programmes, respectively |
| (c) Enhanced coherence and synergy between the global processes related to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and those of the Vienna Programme of Action | (c) Increased reference to landlocked developing countries and/or to their priority areas in declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels emanating from intergovernmental deliberations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda |

### Strategy

8.7 The strategy for the Landlocked Developing Countries Unit will focus on:

(a) Serving as a focal point for the United Nations system for the overall coordination of, mobilization for, monitoring and reporting on, the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as related to landlocked developing countries;

(b) Raising awareness and advocating for the special needs of landlocked developing countries at the international and regional levels;

(c) Mobilizing international support and resources and strengthening partnerships at the national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(d) Contributing to global follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, as well as advocating for stronger linkages and synergies between that follow-up and review process and that of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(e) Undertaking research and analysis on the impact of "landlockedness" on economic growth and the effective participation of landlocked developing countries in international and regional trade, and developing policy recommendations;

(f) Improving coordination of the United Nations system, other international, regional and subregional organizations, development partners and the private sector in the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(g) Undertaking a comprehensive midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and identifying ways of accelerating implementation of the Programme.

## Subprogramme 3
## Small island developing States

**Objective of the Organization**: To enable small island developing States to achieve implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Increased recognition and awareness of the special case and vulnerabilities of small island developing States in national, regional and global processes | (a) (i) Increased reference in declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels in support of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway<br><br>(ii) Increased number of advocacy activities by the United Nations system, including capacity-building workshops, briefings and publications, that address the specific challenges of small island developing States |
| (b) Enhanced international support to small island developing States in implementing the SAMOA Pathway and in adapting to and mitigating climate change | (b) Increased number of development partners and other stakeholders that pledge support for small island developing States, including through the climate change financing mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Climate Investment Funds and the outcomes of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction |

| | |
|---|---|
| (c) Enhanced inter-agency collaboration and partnerships in support of small island developing States | (c) Increased number of joint programmes and activities by development partners, the United Nations system, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations that have an impact on small island developing States, including capacity-building workshops, and technical and financial assistance |
| (d) Enhanced coherence and synergy on issues related to small island developing States in United Nations processes related to the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and those of the SAMOA Pathway | (d) Increased reference to small island developing States and/or to the issues of relevance to their development in declarations, resolutions and decisions at the global and regional levels emanating from intergovernmental deliberations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction |

**Strategy**

8.8 The strategy of the Small Island Developing States Unit will focus on:

(a) Actively promoting awareness on the issues and special case of small island developing States through consistent advocacy internationally;

(b) Advocating and mobilizing international support towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other internationally agreed goals;

(c) Supporting the building of partnerships towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;

(d) Supporting the enhancement of the coherence and active participation of the United Nations system, other international organizations, subregional and regional organizations, the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement;

(e) Undertaking a comprehensive midterm review on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and identify ways of accelerating its implementation.

## Legislative mandates

*General Assembly resolutions*

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| 55/2 | United Nations Millennium Declaration |
| 65/1 | Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals |
| 66/288 | The future we want |
| 67/290 | Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development |
| 68/1 | Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |

## Subprogramme 1
## Least developed countries

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 56/227 | Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 65/280 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| 65/286 | Implementing the smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries |
| 66/213 | Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 67/220 | Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 67/221 | Smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries |
| 68/224 | Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 69/231 | Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 69/283 | Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 |
| 69/331 | Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| 70/216 | Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2009/31 | Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 |
| 2010/27 | Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 |
| 2011/9 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| 2012/26 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| 2013/46 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| 2014/29 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| 2015/35 | Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |

## Subprogramme 2
## Landlocked developing countries

*General Assembly resolutions*

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|---|---|
| 58/201 | Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries |
| 63/2 | Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries |
| 65/172 | Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation |
| 66/214 | Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation |

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| 67/222 | Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation |
| 68/225 | Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation |
| 69/331 | Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| 70/217 | Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries |

## Subprogramme 3
## Small island developing States

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
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| 59/311 | International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |
| 64/199 | Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |
| 65/156 | Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |
| 66/198 | Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |
| 67/206 | International Year of Small Island Developing States |
| 67/207 | Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |
| 68/238 | Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |
| 69/283 | Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 |

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|---|---|
| 69/331 | Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) |
| 69/15 | SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| 70/202 | Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States |